



Top Ten Percent Plan Expands College Access Across Texas

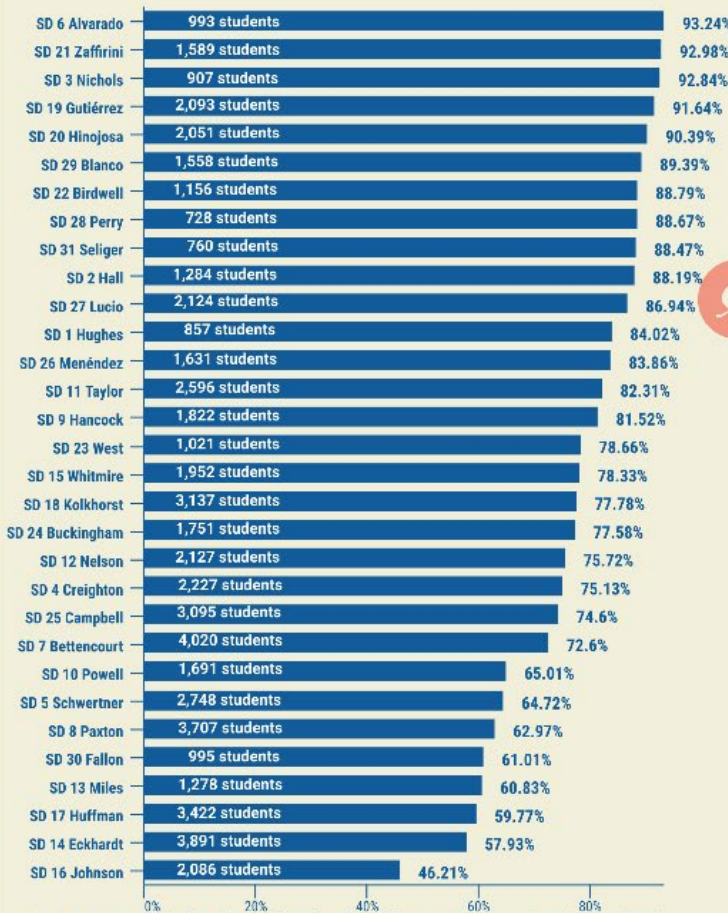


The Texas Top Ten Percent Plan has opened the doors of Texas' public universities to low-income students, rural communities and communities of color – all groups who were typically denied access to many public universities, particularly the University of Texas at Austin. IDRA conducted an analysis of the entering freshman class who received automatic admission at UT-Austin during the years 2009 through 2020.



Expansive Access

Percent of the Entering Freshman Class who Received Automatic Admission at UT-Austin, 2009-2020 by Texas Senate District



Over time, UT-Austin alone has been allowed to adopt a lower threshold for automatic admissions. The graph above reflects the following reductions: 2009 & 2010: Top 10%; 2011 & 2012: Top 9%; 2013: Top 8%; 2014 & 2018: Top 7%; 2019 & 2020: Top 6%.



Background

The Texas Legislature adopted the Top Ten Percent Plan in 1997 in response to declining enrollment of students of color at UT-Austin and Texas A&M University. With bipartisan support from policymakers from both rural and urban districts, the plan required Texas' four-year public universities to admit high school students graduating in the top 10% of their class. Starting with its 2011 class, UT-Austin alone was allowed to limit those students to 75% of the freshmen class. In 2018, the top 7% of students in each high school graduating class were automatically admitted to UT-Austin. Since then, the percentage has been the top 6%.



Impact

The Top Ten Percent Plan has expanded higher education opportunities for students of color, students from rural communities, students from low-income families, and students whose parents did not attend college.

The plan has helped increase the number of feeder high schools into UT-Austin, from 622 in 1996, to 792 in 2000, to 992 in 2016, to 833 in 2018.*

Rural schools continue to benefit from the Top Ten Percent Plan, accounting for 85% of admitted rural students in 2020.

The plan is the principal admissions driver for Latino, Black and Asian American students into UT-Austin, with 82% of admitted Latino students coming from the Top Ten Percent Plan along with 73% of Black students and 74% of Asian American students in 2020.

* Traditional public schools only



The Top Ten Percent Plan accounts for

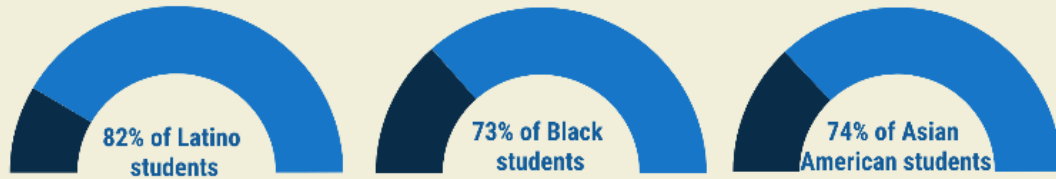
85%

of admitted rural students at UT-Austin



Students Admitted to UT-Austin through the Top Ten Percent Plan are More Diverse

Most students of color at UT-Austin are admitted through the Top Ten Percent Plan



Latino students are about twice as likely to be admitted through the Top Ten Percent Plan than by outside the plan

● Non-Top Ten Percent Plan Students
● Top Ten Percent Plan Students

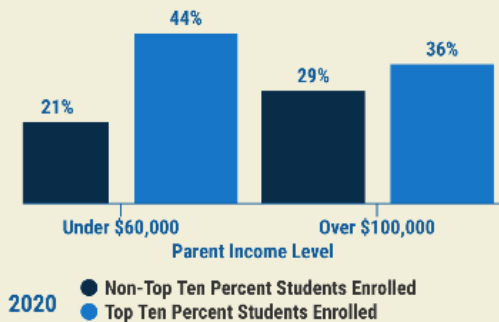
Total number of students admitted in 2020: 14,962



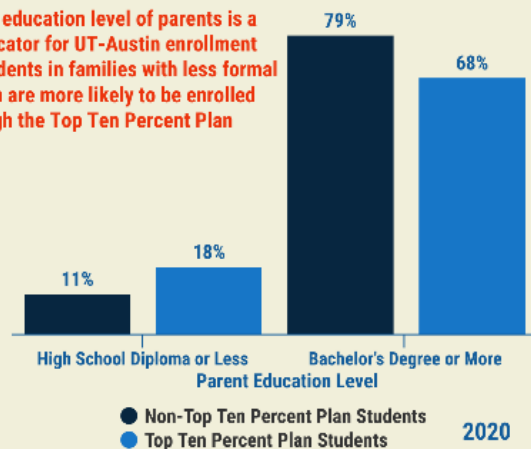
The Top Ten Percent Plan has opened the doors of Texas' flagship universities to students of color, students from rural communities, and students from families with limited means – all groups that have historically been denied access.

The Top Ten Percent Plan is the Best Chance for Students in Families with Limited Means and with Less Formal Education to Get into UT-Austin

The Top Ten Percent Plan opens the door for students from families with limited means



While the education level of parents is a huge indicator for UT-Austin enrollment overall, students in families with less formal education are more likely to be enrolled through the Top Ten Percent Plan



For more information see <https://idra.news/TTP21>

Data Source: University of Texas at Austin, Office of the President, (December 2020), Report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives on the Implementation of SB 175.